

## What is Funeral Directing and Embalming?

### ***Funeral Directing is:***

- (a) Counseling families or next of kin in regard to the conduct of a funeral service for a dead human body for burial, disposition, or cremation or directing or supervising burial, disposition, or cremation of dead human bodies. Cremation shall be considered as a final disposition of a dead human body the same as interment,
- (b) Providing for or maintaining a funeral establishment, or
- (c) The act of representing oneself as or using in connection with one's name the title of funeral director, mortician, or any other title implying that he or she is engaged in the business of funeral directing.

***Embalming is:*** the practice of preparing a dead human body for burial or other final disposal by a licensed funeral director and embalmer or an apprentice, requesting and obtaining burial or removal permits, or assuming any of the other duties incident to the practice of embalming. Any person who publicly professes to be a funeral director and embalmer or an apprentice shall be deemed to be practicing embalming. The performance of the following acts shall also be deemed the practice of embalming:

- (a) The disinfection and preservation of dead human beings, entire or in part; and
- (b) The attempted disinfection and preservation thereof by the use or application of chemical substances, fluids, or gases ordinarily used, prepared, or intended for such purposes, either by outward application of such chemical substances, fluids, or gases on the body or by introducing them into the body, by vascular or hypodermic injection, or by direct introduction into the organs or cavities.

## FUNERAL DIRECTING AND EMBALMING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete 60 semester hours of college credit, which include the following:
  - 6 semester hours of English;
  - 6 semester hours of Accounting;
  - 8 semester hours of Chemistry;
  - 12 semester hours of Biological Science **relating to the human body**;
  - 6 semester hours of Psychology or Counseling;
  - 22 semester hours of electives.

These hours must be earned in addition and separately from a full course of instruction in a school of mortuary science.

2. Complete a full course of instruction (2-4 yrs) in an Accredited mortuary science school. (web site: [www.nfda.org/careers/schools/index.html](http://www.nfda.org/careers/schools/index.html))
3. Complete 12 months of service as an apprentice under the supervision of a licensed funeral director and embalmer practicing in the State of Nebraska.
4. Have attained at least the age of majority.
5. Have good moral character.
6. Successfully pass the National Board examination for Funeral Service administered at accredited schools of mortuary science. The Nebraska Board does not administer this examination. Nebraska requires an average score on the funeral service arts section and the funeral service science section of the examination of 75% or above with no subtest score below 60%.
7. Successfully pass the written jurisprudence and Vital statistics examinations administered by the Credentialing Division. Nebraska requires a score of 75% or above on each examination.
8. Submit the appropriate applications and pay the licensure and examination fees.

## How many licensees and establishments are in Nebraska?

The following numbers are as of 3/20/02

348 - Funeral Directors/Embalmers  
13 - Apprentices  
185 - Funeral Establishments  
104 - Branch Establishments

### **Is a Funeral Establishment required to be licensed?**

Yes, funeral establishments are required to be licensed and inspected by the State Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure Department.

***A funeral establishment*** is a place of business situated at a specific street address or location devoted to the care and preparation of dead human bodies for burial, disposition, or cremation or to conducting or arranging funeral services for dead human bodies.

***A branch establishment*** is a place of business situated at a specific street address or location which is a subsidiary of a licensed funeral establishment, which contains a casket display room, a viewing area, or an area for conducting funeral services, or all of them, and where any portion of the funeral service or arrangements for the disposition of a dead human body is conducted

In order for a funeral or branch establishment to be licensed, it must employ as its manager a licensed funeral director and embalmer who is responsible for all transactions conducted in the establishment. (The owner of an establishment is NOT required to be licensed as a funeral director and embalmer)

## For More Information:

If you would like more information regarding funeral directing and embalming, please call or write:

Nebraska Department of Health and  
Human Services Regulation and  
Licensure  
Credentialing Division  
PO Box 94986  
Lincoln, NE 68509



Telephone Number: 402-471-2117

Fax Number: 402-471-3577

You can also view licensing information under:

[www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/mhcs/fun/funeraldirecting.htm](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/mhcs/fun/funeraldirecting.htm)

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System  
is committed to affirmative action/equal  
employment opportunity and does not  
discriminate in delivering benefits or services.

Nebraska Health and Human Services System



Department of Services, Department of Regulation, Department of Finance and Support

# Nebraska LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



## Funeral Directing and Embalming

Department of Health  
and Human Services  
Regulation and Licensure  
Credentialing Division